Dielman, Louis H. [writer]

Peabody Institute

[Baltimore, MD]

1913-1930

PEABODY INSTITUTE OF THE CITY OF BALTIMORE

LOUIS H. DIELMAN
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY.

November 7, 1913.

Mr Bauman Lowe Belden,

New York, N.Y.

My dear Mr Belden:-

The Peabody Institute contemplates a change in the Peabody gold medals and to that end proposes to have a local competition for the design, limited to certain sculptors. The medal is to be in relief, with plain reverse(?) to be engraved with name of recipient. It has occurred to us that you may be able to give us some expert advice as to proper terms for the competition, or any necessary form of procedure to insure absolute fairness to the competitors and best results for the Institute. I presume that direct commissions are usually given for medals but if you know of anything that will help us in securing the desired result we shall be duly grateful. Perhaps the Society or some Committee thereof would consent to act as judge of the competition.

Can you suggest what we should offer as compensation to winner and losers in the competition.

Very truly yours,

L. H. Dielman

Executive Secretary.

November 11th, 1913.

Mr. Louis H. Dielman,
Executive Secretary,
Peabody Institue,
Baltimore, Md.

Dear Mr. Dielman:-

Your letter of November 7th has been duly received, and would have been answered sooner had I not been out of the city.

Regarding a competition for the new design of your medal, I would suggest that the conditions governing such competition should state:-

The purpose for which the medal is used and the inscriptions that should be placed upon it, but giving the artist the widest possible latitude as to the design, an artist will be more successful working out his own idea, than the idea of some one else.

The amount appropriated for the design selected by the committee of award this amount to include the cost of reduction and cutting the dies, or simply what you pay the sculptor for his model, as you may prefer. I think it also well to offer a reasonable compensation for one or more of the designs which are selected as second, third, &c.

The sculptor should be required to submit a model in plaster of such size as you may designate - say any where from eight to eighteen inches in diameter. I think it better to have the models all the same size. It might also be of assistance to have photographs of the models, made the exact size that the medal is to be, which size should, of course, be decided upon and the sculptors informed. My reason for suggesting these photographs is that frequently a design that looks very well in the large model does not look so well when reduced, and this will give an idea as to the appearance of the model when reduced.

Give the sculptor all the time possible, work of this kind is often spoiled by hurry.

As to the amount of compensation for the accepted design, you can get a medal made for almost any price, but to get really good talent you would probably have to offer five hundred dollars, some of our sculptors would not undertake a medal for that amount, other, of course, would do it for less, but it is well to

make the competition as attractive as possible.

The models should bear fictitious names, the names of the sculptors being kept in sealed envelopes until after the award is made.

The Society is much interested in every thing that tends to the promotion of medallic art in this country, and will be most glad to assist you in any way that it can.

Very truly yours,

Director.

Date May 21 1930

To the Secretary,
THE AMERICAN NUMISMATIC SOCIETY,
156th Street & Broadway,
New York, N. Y.

Enclosed find check to your order for $..... in payment for one INDIAN PEACE MEDALS ISSUED IN THE UNITED STATES to be sent to me by mail.

Name L. H. Dielman

Address PEABODY INSTITUTE
BALTIMORE

Is a copy available?

PARVA
NE
PEREANT
THE
AMERICAN
NUMISMATIC
SOCIETY

May 22,1930

Mr. L. H. Dielman
Peabody Institute
Baltimore, Md.

Dear Sir:

Responding to your inquiry of May 21st, we still have a copy of the book concerning which you write, and we shall be glad to send it to you at the subscription price of five dollars.

Very truly yours,

Secretary.